

Wednesday 29 June 1861

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE, STRAND.

SOLE LESSEE AND RESPONSIBLE MANAGER - MR. THOMAS THORNE.

Every Evening, at 8.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS ON "SOPHIA."

THE TIMES says:—"It is rare indeed that we find a purely English comedy so wholesome, so stirring, so interesting, and so full of human nature as 'Sophia.' The piece is admirably played and mounted."

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH says:—"The play proved interesting, the players were applauded with sincerity, the author was called. Mr. Thorne was congratulated, and it was evident to the least partial playgoer that all present had been amused at what they had heard and what they saw. . . . There was no mistake about the enthusiasm of the audience. Admirably rehearsed and presented in every detail. Such a work deserves to succeed."

THE DAILY NEWS says:—"The performance had secured from the first the sympathy of the audience, and at no point did the interest flag, until at the conclusion of the rhymed 'tag' the curtain fell amidst a demonstration of satisfaction. . . . The play had the advantage of being admirably acted. . . . Its simple old-fashioned story, compactly and dramatically set forth, its adroitly contrived situations, and its pleasing glimpses of old manners render it a welcome relief from the strong excitements of melodrama."

THE MORNING POST says:—"The verdict of the audience was emphatically favourable."

THE DAILY CHRONICLE says:—"The freedom of style and objectionable details that to some tastes disfigure and to others embellish the pages of 'Tom Jones' are absent from the amusing, healthy, and spirited play successfully produced yesterday afternoon. . . . The author was loudly summoned at the close, and subsequently came on hand-in-hand with Mr. Thomas Thorne."

THE MORNING ADVERTISER says:—"Mr. Buchanan has managed to set forth the story in a clear and tangible manner. It steadily progresses to the end, without any waits or dull moments. 'Sophia' is a continuously interesting play, and we should think is bound to be a success."

"Let those laugh now who never laughed before,
And those who always laughed now laugh the more."

♦♦ Noteworthy Opinions on "TOM JONES." ♦♦

"Ne Plus Ultra!"—Lady Mary Wortley Montague.

"The first of ancient or modern romances."—Gibbon.

"Le premier Roman du monde et le livre le mieux fait de L'Angleterre."—La Harpe.

"Upon my word, I think the 'Oedipus Tyrannus,' 'The Alchemist,' and 'Tom Jones,' the three most perfect plots ever planned."—Coleridge.

"I never saw anything that was so animated, and, as many say, *all alive* with characters as 'Tom Jones'."—Lord Monboddo.

"Fielding is the prose Homer of human nature."—Lord Byron.

SUPERIOR OPERA GLASSES ON HIRE, 1s. 6d. EACH.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13th, 1886,

And Every Evening, at 8,

Will be performed a New Comedy, in Four Acts,

ENTITLED

“SOPHIA,”

WRITTEN BY

ROBERT + BUCHANAN,

And founded on Henry Fielding's Famous Romance, “TOM JONES.”

AUTHOR'S NOTE.—Although the leading characters and incidents of this Comedy are based on the greatest work of our first and greatest satirical novelist, care has been taken to select only what is perfectly stainless and void of offence. Despite a certain taint, which is coarseness rather than immorality, “TOM JONES” has gained its immortality as a work of art, because it is fundamentally right and pure in its pictures of human nature. The reader who discovers in it coarseness only, would have to close the works of Cervantes and Le Sage, as well as those of Chaucer, Shakspere, Dryden, and Molière. In the present play, the author has tried to preserve Fielding's healthy moral (which Sheridan also preserved when copying from the novel the characters of Charles and Joseph Surface), although he has taken leave to purify the character of the hero somewhat—to alter many of the incidents and to invent others. Almost all the dialogue and the leading situations are original—so far, at least, as anything can be original which is in no true or absolute sense the dramatist's own, but the merest echo of a great master. Whatever merit the Play may possess belongs to him whose supreme genius inspired it; for whatever shortcomings it may show, the dramatist is alone to blame.

ROBERT BUCHANAN.

TOM JONES	(a Foundling, adopted by Allworthy)	MR. CHARLES GLENNEY
MR. ALLWORTHY	(a Country Gentleman)	MR. GILBERT FARQUHAR
BLIFIL	(Allworthy's Nephew)	MR. ROYCE CARLETON
SQUARE	(his Tutor)	MR. H. AKHURST
SQUIRE WESTERN	-	MR. FRED. THORNE
GEORGE SEAGRIM	(a Poacher)	MR. FULLER MELLISH
COPSE	(a Farmer)	MR. J. WHEATMAN
PARTRIDGE	(Village Barber and Phlebotomist)	MR. THOMAS THORNE
SOPHIA	(Western's Daughter)	MISS KATE RORKE
MISS WESTERN	(Western's Sister)	MISS SOPHIE LARKIN
HONOUR	(Sophia's Maid)	MISS LOTTIE VENNE
SUSAN	(Waitress at the “Bull” Inn)	MISS LOUISA PEACH
MOLLY SEAGRIM	(a Peasant Girl)	MISS HELEN FORSYTH
LADY BELLASTON	(a Woman of Fashion)	MISS ROSE LECLERCQ
Thicket	MR. COURTNEY Matt	Mr. A. AUSTIN
Jim	MR. JOHNSON Footman	MR. CAMPBELL
Page	MASTER OLLETT Lady Bellaston's Maid	MISS BRITAIN

ACT I.

Lawn before Squire Western's House

ACT II.

Barber's Shop and Rural Prospect.

N.B.—To facilitate the working of the Drama and free the stage, the Barber's Shop will be partly removed, after the introductory action within it, by a slight mechanical change.

ACT III.—SCENE 1.

Room in Lady Bellaston's House, Golden Square.

SCENE 2.

A Garret in London.

ACT IV.

Room in the "Bull and Gate" Inn, Holborn.

AN INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES BETWEEN EACH ACT.

Scenery by MESSRS. PERKINS, BRUCE SMITH, and HEMSLEY.

Costumes by MISS FISHER and MESSRS. MAY & CO.

Incidental Music by MR. A. COOKE.

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC:

SELECTION	...	"Reminiscences of England"	...	F. Godfrey
GAVOTTE	...	{ a " Bewitching" } b " Entrancing "	..	E. Bogetti
VALSE	...	• " SOPHIA "	...	A. Cooke
QUADRILLE	...	" Little Jack Sheppard "	...	W. M. Lutz
MUSICAL CONDUCTOR	-	-	-	MR. A. COOKE.

ACTING MANAGER - - - - - MR. SYDNEY ALPORT

STAGE MANAGER - - - - - MR. F. THORNE

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